Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /031 W

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O 200905Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9445

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAIR, SN, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FLYING TIGER/PAN AM OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE

REFS: (AL STATE 14915, (B) STATE 15133, (C) SINGAPORE 0287, (D) SINGAPORE 0284, (E) STATE 2442

- 1. SUMMARY: SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAS LIFTED RESTRICTIONS ON FLYING TIGER OPERATIONS HERE; LICENSE ISSUED TO PAN AM WAS IN ERROR AND THEY HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SERVE TOKYO ON THEIR WEEKLY CARGO FLIGHT. AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT WILL BE READY FOR SIGNATURE SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.
- 2. 2. OUR PROBLEM HAS DISAPPEARED. EMBOFF MADE APPROACH TO MINCOMM STAFFER (REFS A AND C) AND AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION WAS USHERED IN TO SEE SIM KEE BOON. SIM AGREED THAT GIVEN THE THREAT OF DISRUPTION IN CIVAIR RELATIONS THE RESTRICTION ON FTL FLIGHT 45 COULD BE LIFTED. ACCORDING TO SIM, SRI LANKA HAD BARRED SIA FROM SERVING COLOMBO IN A SIMILAR SITUATION, AND SIA HAD ASKED FOR SAME RESTRICTION ON TIGER. IT APPEARS THAT PHILIPPINE PROBLEM WAS NOT A FACTOR IN THE DISPUTE, AND THAT MINISTRY WAS GENUINELY SHOCKED AT TIGER/USG REACTION. LOCAL FTL REP HAS BEEN INFORMED OF DECISION.
- 3. EMBOFF PASSED ALONG ASSURANCES (REF E) THAT FLEXIBILITY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FLIGHT SCHEDULES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SIA AS WELL.

4. SIM WAS QUITE UPSET AT BOTH PAN AM AND SLIP-UP IN INTERNAL GOS PROCEDURES. AFTER QUESTION OF SHARING OF FIFTH-FREEDOM FREQUENCIES HAD BEEN RESOLVED EARLIER THIS MONTH, SIM INSTRUCTED DCA TO ISSUE PAN AM PERMIT ALLOWING ONCEWEEKLY FIFTH-FREEDOM CARGO FLIGHT THROUGH TOKYO. ISSUANCE

OF PERMIT WITHOUT TOKYO STOP WAS ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.
SIM'S IRE WAS ALSO DIRECTED AT PAN AM FOR GOING TO NEW YORK
AND WASHINGTON DIRECTLY WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS
LOCALLY. (COMMENT: WE AGREE, AND HAVE SPOKEN TO LOCAL PAN AM
REP ABOUT THE PROBLEM) REVISED PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED TO PAN AM.

5. AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT REVIEW BY GOS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, AND COMMENTS ON DRAFT WILL BE FORTHCOMING IMMINENTLY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASIDE FROM EDITORIAL CHANGES, ONLY ADDITION WILL BE LANGUAGE MAKING LIMITED FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN SELECTING GROUND HANDLERS RECIPROCAL. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER LIM WILL PROBABLY SIGN FOR GOS; THEY ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CEREMONY.

6. WE ASSUME NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR AIRLINES HAVE INTERVENED IN CAB PROCEDURES AND THAT SIA ORDER WILL BE GOING TO WHITE HOUSE SHORTLY.

7. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I WISH TO REITERATE THAT POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH PHILIPPINES STILL EXISTS AND THAT IF MANILA DOES OBJECT TO FTL TACTIC, ISSUE OF "ASEAN UNITY" MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS TO GOS. I AWAIT THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS (REF A) ON THIS QUESTION. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP00314
Document Source: CDR

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D780030-0851 Format: TEL From: SINGAPORE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Expiration:

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780139/aaaabhbl.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5815c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 14915, 78 STATE 15133, 78 SINGAPORE 287, 78 SINGAPORE 284, 78 STATE 2442

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3738598 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CIVAIR: FLYING TIGER/PAN AM OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE

TAGS: EAIR, SN, US, TWA, FLYING TIGER AIRLINES

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5815c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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